

C/O Staff, COMCARGRU TWO  
FPO New York 09501

10 ~~Dec~~ 81

July

Dear Mom & Dad,

I am getting along very well on the big carrier. (There are about 5000 men aboard!) The work is interesting and there is plenty to do. This morning I jogged around the flight deck for 45 minutes. It is a little slippery, but the exercise felt good. There are, of course, big safety nets all around the side! I will try to get out every morning but sometimes the flight operations make it impossible. The planes have been flying 12 hours a day, normally noon to midnight. When they are flying it is very noisy because the Admiral's "Flag" spaces are just below the flight deck. Also there are many other sources of noise. I have adjusted well so far and not had any problem sleeping. This is easier by getting good and tired. A typical routine has been to get up at 6 A.M., jog, shower, dress, eat breakfast, work, lunch at noon, work, dinner at 6 P.M., work, movie at 7:30 P.M., work until midnight. Of course, not all the work is really work. One can always read a book, take a nap, or watch the planes take off and land.

I share a room with another fellow - I have the upper bunk. We have desks, closets, and a sink in our room. Living is rather easy because all needs are taken care of. Meals are served, laundry is done, and rooms are cleaned. The atmosphere is somewhat like a fraternity house, except that most people work long hours. The food has been good. I have cereal in the morning, a salad at lunch, and whatever is served for dinner. There is ~~also~~ always fresh fruit available, although today powdered milk replaced the fresh. The choice of food is quite large and the quantity unlimited. It costs me about \$3. per day for food.

If this seems strange to you, think how it feels to me! However, I really feel quite comfortable and am enjoying the experience.

Monday morning we will pull into Benidorm, a resort town on the Spanish Coast. Vickie will meet me there and we will stay in a hotel for eight days. I will have to come out to the ship most days, but on the weekend we'll take a trip to some interesting place. There are many interesting ports coming up and the year will pass quickly. Love, Jim

(OVER)

If you should want to get in touch  
with me, send a telegram to:

JAMES R CARLSON, CIV

USS FORRESTAL

FLAG OPS

VIA NAUCOMMUNIT, WASHINGTON D.C.